

What Is Claimed Is:

1. A device for determining a boiling point of a hydraulic fluid of a hydraulic system, comprising:  
an electrical heating element situated in the fluid, the electrical heating element acting as an actuator of a micropump and being situated in a chamber thereof.
2. The device according to claim 1, wherein the device is for determining a boiling point of a brake fluid of a braking system in a motor vehicle.
3. The device according to claim 1, wherein, according to a thin film technique, the heating element is applied to a substrate which is provided with a cover to form a chamber.
4. The device according to claim 3, wherein the chamber has an inlet and an outlet which are situated in one of the substrate and the cover.
5. The device according to claim 3, wherein the substrate is composed of at least one of a semiconductor, heat-resistant glass, a ceramic and plastic, and the cover is composed of at least one of a semiconductor, heat-resistant glass, a ceramic and plastic.
6. The device according to claim 5, wherein the substrate is composed of silicon.
7. The device according to claim 5, wherein the cover is composed of silicon.
8. The device according to claim 1, wherein the heating element is produced from one of aluminum and platinum, and is coated by a dielectric.
9. The device according to claim 1, further comprising a PTC resistor element situated in the chamber.

10. The device according to claim 1, wherein the device has a multilayer construction.
11. A method for determining a boiling point of a fluid of a hydraulic system using a device having a heating element, the method comprising:
  - conveying the fluid into a chamber of a micropump with the aid of the heating element;
  - heating the fluid to boiling using the heating element; and
  - thereafter ascertaining the boiling point of the fluid with the aid of an electrical resistance of the heating element.
12. The method according to claim 11, wherein after an abrupt change in the electrical resistance of the heating element, a heating performance of the heating element is lowered.
13. The method according to claim 11, further comprising operating the heating element in a pulsed manner at regular intervals.